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Labour force supplementary surveys

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods

Reference period: 2023

Released 24/11/2023

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A supplementary topic was included with the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the first time in November 1961, and this concept was gradually extended so that the majority of months in each year included supplementary questions on one or more topics.

Each Labour Force Supplementary Survey (LFSS) comprises a series of additional questions asked at the end of each LFS interview. The survey methodology does not differ greatly among the supplementary surveys, and in many aspects is the same as the LFS methodology (outlined in the section: Labour Force Survey). This section describes the broad survey methodology of the supplementary surveys. They should be used in conjunction with the subsections of this section, which outline elements of the methodology which are unique to each supplementary survey.

From July 2014, the ABS improved and consolidated the content of the LFS and labour supplementary surveys. See [Information Paper: Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review, 2012](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6107.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6107.0>) and [Forthcoming changes to ABS Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6310.0Main%20Features4August%202013?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=3) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6310.0Main%20Features4August%202013?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=3>) for more information.

The Characteristics of Employment Survey (COE) combines the key elements from the previous separate Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey (EEBTUM), Forms of Employment Survey (FOES) and Working Time Arrangements Survey, to provide a comprehensive and coherent dataset on characteristics of persons' employment.

The Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) Survey combines the key elements from the previous separate Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey (PNILF), Underemployed Workers Survey (UEW), Job Search Experience Survey (JSE) and Labour Mobility Survey (LM), to provide a comprehensive and coherent dataset on persons' experiences relating to job search, job change and increasing participation.

Objectives of the labour force supplementary surveys

The LFSSs form an important component of the ABS's household surveys program, which aims:

- to provide a range of statistics required to monitor the social and economic wellbeing of

Australians, with particular reference to important sub-groups of the population; and

- to support the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs of key Commonwealth and State government agencies.

The information requirements of ABS household surveys are determined on the basis of submissions from users on their needs for and uses of household survey data. They also reflect ABS deliberations on what is required of a national statistics program in the various subject fields, based on user contact and consultation.

In the field of labour statistics, supplementary surveys provide detailed information on a range of labour topics and interest groups such as:

- labour force - labour force experience,
- employment - underemployment; multiple job holding; forms of employment,
- employees - earnings; trade union membership; benefits; and working arrangements,
- unemployment - job search experience; successful and unsuccessful job search,
- persons not in the labour force - discouraged job seekers; other persons with marginal attachment to the labour force, and
- persons retrenched or made redundant from work.

Current supplementary survey statistical releases

Publication	Frequency	Description
Characteristics of Employment, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6333.0)	Annual	The Characteristics of Employment (COE) survey is conducted annually in August as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). From 2020, statistics from COE are published in three topic-based releases. Data from the biennial labour hire workers module in COE contributes to the multi-source Labour Hire Workers publication.
Employee earnings (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/latest-release)	Annual	
Working arrangements (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)	Annual	
Trade union membership (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/trade-union-membership/latest-release)	Biennial	
Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats%5Cabs@.nsf/0/49A83FBC3DF528CACA257FD800129321?Opendocument)	Annual	The Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey is conducted annually in February as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). From 2021, statistics from PJSM are published in three topic-based releases.
Potential workers (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/latest-release)	Annual	
Job mobility (/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/latest-release)	Annual	
Underemployed workers (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/underemployed-workers/latest-release)	Annual	
Education and Work, Australia (/statistics/people/education/education-and-work-australia/latest-release)	Annual	The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Historical supplementary survey statistical releases

Publication	Catalogue Number	Description
Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6310.0Main%20Features2August%202013?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=)	6310.0	This product has been replaced by Characteristics of Employment. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1975-2013.
Forms of Employment, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0)	6359.0	This product has been replaced by Characteristics of Employment, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1998-2013.
Locations of Work, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0?OpenDocument)	6275.0	This product has been replaced by Characteristics of Employment. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1989-2008.
Working Time Arrangements, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6342.0Main+Features1November%202012?OpenDocument)	6342.0	This product has been replaced by Characteristics of Employment. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1993-2012.
J (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6222.0) ob	6222.0	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1976-2013.
Search Experience, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6222.0)	6206.0	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1968-2011.
Labour Force Experience, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6206.0Main+Features1Feb%202011?OpenDocument)	6209.0	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1972-2013.
Labour Mobility, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6209.0Main+Features1February%202012?OpenDocument)	6220.0	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1975-2013.
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6220.0Main+Features1September%202013?OpenDocument)	6226.0.55.001	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Originally, this product replaced the publications in 2014: Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia; Underemployed Workers, Australia; and Job Search Experience, Australia.
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Underemployed Workers and Job Search Experience, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6226.0.55.001Main+Features1February%202014?OpenDocument)	6265.0	This product has been replaced by Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia. Archive of statistics from this survey is available from 1985-2013.
Underemployed Workers, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6265.0)	6250.0	Survey was last conducted in 2020.
Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS%5Cabs@.nsf/0/E92EA270A32AF8F1CA256953007D9AFA?OpenDocument)	6211.0	Survey was last conducted in 2006.
Child Employment, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6211.0Jun%202006?OpenDocument)	6216.0	Survey was last conducted in 2001. This product has been replaced by Multiple job-holders, which is a multi-source release, combining data from the Labour Force Survey, the Australian Labour Account and Jobs in Australia.
Multiple Jobholding, Australia (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6216.0Aug%201997?OpenDocument)	4913.0	Survey was last conducted in 2017.